

Testimony in Favor of HB 6617
February 21, 2023
Isaac Barnes May

My name is Isaac Barnes May. I grew up in Brookfield and am now a second-year student at Yale Law School, where I work with the Reproductive Rights Justice Project. I am writing today to testify in favor of HB 6617, An Act Promoting Equity in Coverage for Fertility Health Care.

This act will make it possible for LGBTQ people and those on Husky Health plans to receive fertility care, leaving the choice of whether to have children up to individuals rather than insurers or businesses. Connecticut was one of the first states to mandate that private insurance plans require fertility care; this was a dramatic step forward in allowing reproductive choice. Yet we need to improve on the existing policy, which excludes people from needed healthcare based on their sexuality or because they do not have the right insurance.

Decades ago, Connecticut was extremely restrictive about reproductive rights; the 1965 case *Griswold v. Connecticut* saw the state seek to prevent married couples from having access to contraceptives. Since then, we have come a long way in providing access to reproductive care. Now, in a moment where reproductive rights are under threat nationally, Connecticut has the opportunity to lead by example, to ensure that forming a family is a matter that individuals can choose.

My wife and I are excited to welcome our first child in around a week. We are thankful that our insurance means we will bear little of the financial costs involved. The current law means that when many LGBTQ people or those on Husky plans decide to have children, insurance does not cover the medical care they need to start that process. I would want to live in a state where people have that chance to be parents, regardless of their sexuality or how they are insured. Thank you for supporting this bill.